lapse and they must be made to feel their sense of responsibility and you should see that they utilise the whole amount. This is a contribution made by the Government and it is their duty to see that the amount is utilised.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We are putting sufficient pressure on the Panchayats and we are also taking some precautions to avoid lapses.

President.—I suppose more pressure could not be put on them?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I do not think so.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the total amount that lapsed in the last year?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Notice.

Prohibition of a road in Mukundapuram Taluk for use by the non-caste-Hindus.

635. Mr. K. Ayyappan.—(1) Have the Governmen received any petition praying to prohibit certain classes of His Highness' subjects, such as Ezhuvas, Pulayas, Kammalans, Christians, Muslims, etc., from using a part of the road lying north of the Thottippal Bhagavati temple, Thottippal Village, Mukundapuram Taluk;

(2) have the Government also received any petitions from those classes protesting against the above referred petitions;

(3) when were the petitions and protest petitions received;

(4) have the Government ordered any enquiry on the petitions and protest petitions;

(5) will the Government be pleased to place on the Table the reports, if any, of the various revenue officers who made the enquiry;

(6) will the Government be pleased to state whether the enquiry was open and if not will they order an open fresh enquiry;

(7) if the enquiry is complete, will the Government be pleased to state what order they have passed in the matter and place all the important papers connected with it on the Table;

(8) (a) will the Government be pleased to state whether there were any petitions presented to the Second-class Magistrate of Mukundapuram and the District Magistrate of Cochin, on or about 14th Mithunam 1102 and 26th Kumbham 1103 respectively, for prohibiting the said classes of people from using the said road and if so what orders were passed on them;

(b) will the Government be pleased to place those orders on the Table;

(9) will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the said road is a *poramboke*;

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(b) whether it has been converted into Devaswam *poramboke* ;

and (c) whether the conversion of Government *poramboke* into Devaswam *poramboke* deprives the subjects of the Civil rights which they had in respect of those *porambokes* prior to the conversion ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) On 22nd April 1928 and 11th July 1928 respectively.

(4) Yes.

(5) to (9). The matter is under enquiry. Government cannot furnish the information at this stage.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon's appointment as acting Peishkar.

636. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council:—

(1) is the Government aware that his appointment as acting Peishkar is looked upon by the public in general and the litigants in particular as a great loss to the judiciary;

(2) will the Government be pleased to say whether they could not find any competent hand in the Revenue or other Executive Departments to be appointed as acting Diwan Peishkar;

(3) is the Government not aware that the duties attended to at present by Mr. Damodara Menon, the Special Officer, were being looked after by Mr. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar in addition to his duties as Diwan Peishkar; if so, did the Government require Mr. Damodara Menon to look after the duties of the Diwan Peishkar also during the latter's absence on leave;

(4) is not the Government aware that the minimum pay of the Diwan Peishkar is Rs. 350 only; if so, could not the Government find anybody, other than a Judge of the highest court in the land, to be appointed to this place on the minimum pay;

(5) if the minimum pay is Rs. 350, will the Government be pleased to say why they thought it necessary to deprive the judiciary of one of its best Judges?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(1) Government are not aware.

(2) None so competent as Mr. Krishna Menon could be found.

(3) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and that to the second part in the negative.

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